

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
(RCS GSHIS-6(R2))  
56TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)  
1 January 1965 to 31 December 1965  
HENRY J. DEGROOT, FIRST SERGEANT, E-8

27th Transportation Battalion (Truck)  
US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon (Provisional)  
1st Logistical Command

Approved

*Joseph J. Roscelli*  
JOSEPH J. ROSCELLI  
Captain, TC  
Commanding

On 1 January 1965, the 58th Transportation Company (Light Truck), was garrisoned at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri under the Administrative and Operational control of the 64th Quartermaster Battalion (Petroleum Operating), with an assigned strength of six Officers and 158 Enlisted Men.

The Annual General Inspection of the Unit was conducted on 11 January 1965, by the Inspector General, Headquarters, Fort Leonard Wood, and a rating of Combat Ready was achieved. During the period 9 thru 18 February 1965, the Unit underwent a Command Material Maintenance Inspection conducted by Fifth U.S. Army, and again achieved a rating of Combat Ready. During this period the Unit operated in support of the Post Transportation Motor Pool, until alerted for movement overseas.

On 18 June 1965, the Unit was alerted for overseas deployment to the Republic of Vietnam with a readiness date of 30 July 1965. Unit equipment was loaded on rail cars during the period 12 thru 15 July 1965, for shipment to Gulf outport. The Unit deployed with 66 M211 2½ ton Cargo Vehicles, 5 M151 ½ ton Trucks, and 1 5 ton Wrecker.

On 31 July 1965, an Advance Party of one Officer and three Enlisted Men departed Fort Leonard Wood by air for the Republic of Vietnam. The main body departed by rail on 2 August 1965, arriving at Oakland, California on 6 August 1965. They embarked aboard the USNS General Blatchford, and sailed on 7 August 1965. The Unit debarked at Qui Nhon, Vietnam on 27 August 1965, and was completely operational by 1600 hours that date. On 28 August 1965, the Unit under the Command of Captain Wallace A. Bryans, made its first convoy up Route 19 to An Khe. Until early in October the Unit ran daily convoys to An Khe in support of the 101st Airborne Division.

In early October the unit participated in operation "Highland", the landing of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), at Qui Nhon. The unit's mission was to transport the Division's TAT, and equipment from the beaches at Qui Nhon to the Division Area at An Khe.

On October 14th, the 58th Transportation Company (Light Truck), took the first American convoy over Highway 19 to Pleiku, and played a major role in two more Pleiku convoys that week as the unit's 2½ ton trucks were able to make the round trip in one day. The convoys to Pleiku were to resupply the ARVN 22nd Division in that area.

The end of October saw the Unit take on another operation with the arrival of the First Republic of Korea Division. The Unit carried more than 7,000 troops of this famed "Tiger Division" in operation "Goodfriend". Part of the Division was taken from the beach to the Qui Nhon railhead, while others were transported direct to the Division Area.

This three day operation marked the first time rail movement was used by Allied Forces in the Qui Nhon Area, and this Unit's trucks were used at both railheads to shuttle troops. After the "Tiger Division" took up defensive positions, elements of the 101st Airborne Division, and the 27th Marine Battalion, who had previously held the positions moved to new locations.

In early November, it was the trucks of the 58th Transportation Company (Light Truck), that picked up men, and equipment of the 27th Marine Battalion at the forward positions and carried them to the awaiting ships. By this time "Roadrunner", the nickname of the 58th Transportation Company, was known all over Central Vietnam.

Activities slowed during the first two weeks of November, and the Unit was given the opportunity to fix up their Company Area and build a Mess Hall, but there was still the troop haul of the 101st Airborne Division, and occasionally the trucks of the 58th were called upon to assist in beach clearance operations.

On 19 November 1965, Captain Joseph J. Roscelli, replaced Captain Wallace A. Bryans as Company Commander. Three days later on 22 November 1965, the Unit was assigned the mission of beach clearance at the newly constructed Finger Pier in Qui Nhon.

The 7th of December saw the 58th Transportation Company, surpass the 400,000 mark for miles traveled since their arrival in Vietnam. The same three month period the Unit transported 34,359 tons of supplies and equipment, and carried 31,863 passengers.

An even more outstanding statistic for the period is the Unit deadline rate. The Maintenance Section has maintained a negative deadline, not only during the quarter, but throughout the unit's operation in Vietnam. This is especially noteworthy as vehicles driven by the "Roadrunners" drivers are M211, 2½ ton trucks equipped with automatic transmissions, and three are over ten years old.

As the year came to a close the "Roadrunners" were hauling over 600 tons a day on beach clearance, utilizing up to 60 trucks per day, and had traveled 433,023 miles in Vietnam.